The Verb in Modern Tamil

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PREFACE

The two essays that follow have already appeared in Pulamai (Vol. 3 No. 2 and 3). Though many scholars have worked on modern literary Tamil, a complete analysis of the verb has yet to come in printed form. I hope this tiny volume will be useful for the scholars who work on modern Tamil verb and for the non-Tamil speakers who are interested in the study of modern Tamil.

P. K.

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The Simple Verb in Modern Tamil

Pon. KOTHANDARAMAN

1. Simple Verb

By simple verb we mean the verb with only one root plus one or more suffixes.

1. 1. Finite Forms : By finite forms we mean the finite verbs which exclude the adjectival and adverbial participles and the nouns derived from verbs.

1. 1. 1. The stem : The simple verb stem may contain a verb root or a root plus one or two grammatical suffixes. The simple verb stems might be summarized as follows;

Rule 1

$$Vst \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Vs_1 \cdot (PV) \\ Vs_2 \end{array} \right\} (Caus)$$

where Vst	=	verb stem
Vs_1	=	a calss of verb stem
Vs_2	=	another class of verb stem
PV	=	piṟaviṉai marker
Caus	=	causative marker

The verbs which belong to Vs_1 can take PV as well as Caus or both[1]. The verbs which belong to Vs_2 do not take the PV but they can optionally take Caus. The possible sequences and examples are given below.

1 Vs_1 e.g., naṭa 'walk'

2 Vs_1 - PV	naṭattu 'make ... walk'
3 Vs_1 - Caus	natappi 'cause to walk'
4 Vs_1 - PV - Caus	naṭattuvi 'cause to make ... walk'
5 Vs_2	cey 'do'
6 Vs_2 - Caus	ceyvi 'cause to do'

Vs_1 : There is a class of verb capable of taking PV and Vs_1 stands for this class of verbs.[2] To put it in other words, PV forms the basis for the classification of Vs_1 and Vs_2. The traditional grammarians call the verbs of Vs_1 *Taṉviṉai* 'self - action - verb' and the verbs of Vs_2 - PV *Piṟaviṉai* 'non - self-action verb' . For instance, naṭa 'walk' is *Taṉviṉai* and naṭāttu 'make ... walk' is *Piṟaviṉai*.

Vs_1 before taking PV is taṉviṉai and it becomes piṟaviaṉi after taking piṟaviṉai marker (PV). In the instance *naṭattu* the PV can be analyzed as - *ttu*. But, this is not the case with all the other verbs of Vs_1. Therefore Vs_1 needs further classification.[3]

Vs_1 further classified : Consider the following instances where the piṟaviṉai forms are given along with their taṉviṉai forms.

(a)	naṭa 'walk'	naṭattu 'make ... walk'
	malar 'blossom'	malarttu 'make ... blossom'
	nīḷ 'be lengthened,	nīṭṭu 'lengthen'
	pāy 'flow'	pāyccu 'make ... flow'
(b)	paḻaku 'learn'	paḻakku 'train'
	karuku 'get over burnt'	karukku 'over burn'
	āṭu 'shake'	āṭṭu 'make ... shake'
	ōṭu 'run'	ōṭṭu 'make ... run'
(c)	tirumpu 'turn'	tiruppu 'make ... turn'
	aṭaṅku 'be subdued'	aṭakku 'subdue'
	tiruntu 'get all right'	tiruttu 'make ... all right'
	varuntu 'be worried'	varuttu 'annoy'
(d)	aḻi 'perish'	aḻi 'make ... perish'
	maṟai 'hide'	maṟai 'make ... hide'

cēr 'join'	cēr 'make ... join'
mīḷ 'get back'	mīḷ 'get sth./sb. back'

The verbs given in (a) take the suffix - *ttu*. Obviously, *nīṭṭu* and *pāyccu* have undergone some sandhi changes. Among the verbs given in (b) the final -*Pu* (P is a plosive consonant) has become -*PPu* when the verbs take PV. The final -*NPu* (N is a nasal consonant) of the verbs given in (c) has become -PPu when the verbs take PV. Regarding the verbs given in (d) we find no change in the stem level. But, when they take suffixes such as infinitive suffix, tense suffix, etc., we find the difference between taṉviṉai and piṟaviṉai. Note the difference, for instance, in the infinitive forms given below.

(e)	aḻiya 'to perish'	aḻikka 'to make ... perish'
	maṟaiya 'to hide'	maṟaikka 'to make ... hide'
	cēra 'to join'	cērkka 'to make ... join'
	mīḷa 'to get back'	mīṭka 'to get sth. /sb. back'

Beyond doubt, *aḻiya* and *aḻikka* are grammticaily related forms. A grammar must reasonably account for such relatedness of grammatical forms. In order to account for such formal difference, we can set up an abstract symbol in the stem level. To illustrate this, *āḻi* would be understood as *taṉviṉai* whereas *āḻi-X* would be understood as *piṟāviṉai*.

The piṟaviṉai is formed (1) by adding -*ttu* to the stem (Vs_1), (2) by changing the -*Pu* of the stem into -*PPu*, (3) by changing the -*NPu* of the stem into -*PPu*, or, (4) by adding the abstract symbel -*X* to the stem. On this basis Vs_1 might be further classified into four subclasses.[4]

1 Vs_1. a : The verb stems of this subclass take the suffix -*ttu*.

2 Vs_1. b : The verb stems of this subclass change the final -*Pu* Into -*PPu* to form piṟaviṉai.

3 Vs_1. c : The verb stems of this subclass change the final -*NPu* into -*PPu* to form piṟaviṉai.

4 Vs_1. d : The verb stems of this subclass take -*X* to form piṟaviṉai.

The following rule summarizes this classification.

Rule 2.

$$Vs._1 \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Vs_1.\ a \\ Vs_1.\ b \\ Vs_1.\ c \\ Vs_1.\ d \end{array} \right\}$$

As already shown in Rule 1, the Vs_1 may be followed by PV as well as Caus or by both,[5]

Vs_2 : The verb stems of Vs_2 as already noted, never take PV, but they optionally take the causative suffix (Caus). The causative suffix is realized as *-ppi* after the verb stems whose optative forms end in *-kkā* and as *-pi* after optative forms ending in *-ka*.[6]

—pi >vi in the environments (1) V—V and (2) y, r,l, ḻ, ḷ—V.

e. g., paṭi 'read'
patikka 'read'
paṭippi 'cause to read'
kāṇ 'see'
kāṇka 'see'
kāṇpi 'cause to see'
cey 'do'
ceyka 'do'
ceyvi 'cause to do'

Theoretically, it is possible to add the causative suffix with all the verbs. Also it is possible to add causative suffix to the stems which have a causative suffix already. For instance, *ceyvi* which has a causative suffix *-vi*, can take another causative suffix giving the form *ceyvippi*.[7]

1.1.2. Tense : There are three tenses in the simple verbs. In addition, there is a nagative marker occurring in the same position of the tense markers. If negative can be taken for a tense, there are four tenses in Tamil, i.e. past, present, future and negative.

Past Tense: The past tense markers are *t*, *tt*, *nt*, *in̲* and the doubling of P as PP.[8] On the basis of these tense markers the verb stems can be classified into five classes. But the stems need further classifications when we take other tenses into consideration.

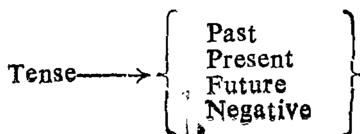
Present Tense: The present tense markers are *kiṟu*, *-kkiṟu*, *-kin̲ṟu* and *kkin̲ṟu*. Except when followed by the plural suffix-*an̲a*, *kiṟu* can freely alternate with *-kin̲ṟu* and *kkiṟu* with *kkin̲ṟu*. *-kiṟu* and *kin̲ṟu* occur with the stems whose optative forms end in *-ka* and *-kkiṟu* and and *kkin̲ṟu* with the stems whose optative forms end in *-kka*.

Future Teuse: The future tense markers are *v*,*p* and *pp*. There is another suffix *-um*, whose allomorphs are *-um*, *-kum* and *-kkum* signifying future teuse as well as nonhuman or aḵṟiṇai.[9] The suffix *-pp* occurs with the stems whose optative forms end in *-kkā*, *p* with the stems ending in *n̲* or *ṇ* and *v* with the other stems.

Negative Tense: The negative tense markers are, *ā*, *āt*, *kā*, *kāt*, *kkā* and *kkāt*. The suffixes ending in *t* i.e. *-āt*, *-kāt* and *-kkāt* occur when followed by certain suffixes such as the adjectival suffix *-a*, The stems whose optative forms end in *-kka*, take *-kkā* and *kkāt*.[10] Among the other stems, the stems of (C)$\bar{V}$ type take *-kā* and *-kāt* and the rest of the stems take *-ā* and *-āt*.[11]

The negative-*ā* and its variants in modern Tamil occur only when they are followed by neuter suffix or adjective or participial suffix.[12] When the verb is conjugated for I person, II person and III person human, the negative is formed in a different way and it is not dealt with here.

Rule 3



Stem Class

When taking these tenses into consideration one may classify the verb stems as follows.[13]

	Past	Present	Future	Negative
1 Cey 'do'	t	kiṟu	v	ā
2 āḷ 'rule'	nt	,,	,,	,,
3 añcu 'fear'	iṉ	,,	,,	,,
4 naku 'smile'	Pu -PPu	,,	,,	,,
5 Uṇ 'eat'	t	,,	p	,,
6 kēḷ 'hear'	tt	kkiṟu	pp	kkā
7 naṭa 'walk'	nt	,,	,,	,,

Though class 1 and class 5 behave alike regardiūg the past tense, they behave differently regarding the future tense. Therefore they are treated as two different classes. Though class 2 and 7 behave alike in the case of past tense, they differ in the case of peesent, future and negative tenses. Therefore they are treated as two different classas.[14]

1. 1. 3. Person-number-gender markers (Png)

The suffixes like -āṉ, āḷ, etc. show the person, number and gender. Therefore such suffixes are called person-number-génder markers (Png).

I person is divided into Singular and Plural, II person into singular, honorific and plural and III peason into masculine feminine, honorific, human plural, nonhuman singular and nonhuman plural. I person plural can be further divided into inclusive and exclusive. II person honorific can be further divided into honorific 1, and honorific 2.

The person-number-gender markers refer to the pronouns which stand as the subject. That is to say, the Png markers are determined according to the subject.

I person : The I person pronouns and the corresponding Png markers are given below :

	pronoun		Png. markers
Sg.	nāṉ	I	-ēṉ

Pl (incl.) nām	we	-ōm
Pl (excl.) nāṅkaḷ	we	-ōm

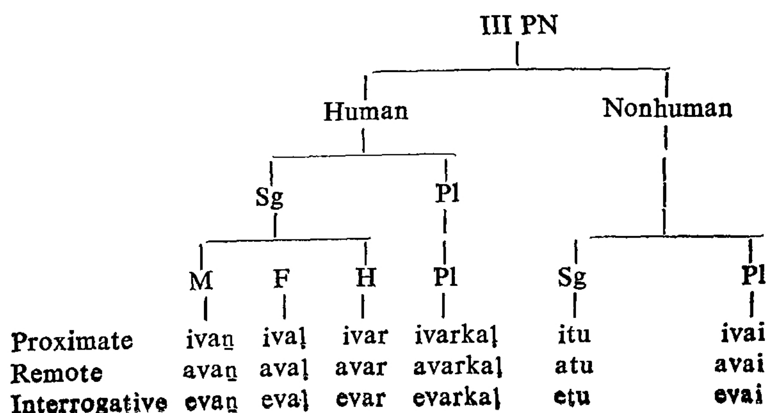
The Png markers occur after the tense markers in the verb. Both *nām* and *nāṅkaḷ* take *-ōm* as their concord element.[15]

II Person : The II person pronouns and the corresponding Png. markers are the following.

	Pronoun		**Png. markers**
Sg.	nī	'you'	-āy
Hon. 1	nīr	,,	-īr
Hon. 2	nīnkaḷ	,,	-īrkaḷ
Pl	nīṅkaḷ	,,	-ḷrkaḷ

It should be borne in mind that the Png. markers given above occur after the tense markers. Regarding the II person there are also other Png. markers occurring in the imperative forms of the verbs. Those Png. markers are dealt with elsewhere ln the following sections.

III Person : The third person pronouns have to be dealt with under three divisions, namely, (a) proximate demonstrative, (b) remote demonstrative and (c) interrogative pronouns. Each of them is divided into six. The following diagram shows the divisions.



Proximate demonstrative : The proximate demonstrative pronouns and their Png. markers are shown below.

ivaṉ	'this - he'	-āṉ
ivaḷ	'this - she' .	-āḷ
ivar	'this - he/she'	-ār
ivarkaḷ	'these people'	-ārkaḷ
itu	'this'	-atu
ivai(kaḷ)	'these'	-aṉa

The Png markers are the same for the remote and interrogative pronouns. The Png markers for all other nouns for which these pronouns can be substitutes, are decided accordingly. That is to say, *āṉ* is chosen for all masculine nouns, *āḷ* is chosen for all feminine nouns and so on.

It should be noted here that *-atu* and *-aṉa* do not apply for future tense. When the verb involves future tense and nonhuman gender, the suffix is realized *as -um.* The variants of this *-um* are *kum* and *kkum.* The variant *kkum* occurs with the stems whose optative forms end in *-kka,* the variant *kum* with the stems of (C)$\bar{V}$ type and *-um* occurs elsewhere. This is applicable for all the III person Png forms.

Remote Demonstrative : For easy reference the remote demonstrative pronouns and their Png markers are given below.

avaṉ	'that-he'	-āṉ
avaḷ	'that-she'	-āḷ
avar	'that he/she'	-ar
avarkaḷ	'those people'	-ārkaḷ
atu	'that'	-atu
avai (kaḷ)	'those'	-aṉa

It is already stated that -um, -kum, and kkum occur when the verb takes future tense and nonhuman Png.

Interrogative : The interrogative pronouns and their Png markers are the following.

evaṉ	'which-he'	-āṉ
evaḷ	'which-she'	-āḷ

evar	'which-he/she'	-ār
everkaḷ	'which people'	-ārkal
etu	'which'	-atu
evai(kaḷ)	'which'	-aṉa

Though it is theoretically possible to have *evarkaḷ*, it is not common in usage.[16]

The verbs when taking the tense and the Png have the structure Vst - tense -Png. The verbs when having this structure might be called indicative. A verb when conjucated for tense and Png can give 52 forms (1×4×13=52).[17] The following rule summarizes the Png.

Png ——→ { I Png, II Png, III Png }

1. 1. 4. **Imperative :** The imperative forms might be divided into four, i. e., (a) informal, (b) polite 1, (c) polite 2, and (d) plural.[18]

The informal imperative suffix is unmarked. The Polite[1] imperative suffix is *um*; the polite 2 imperative suffix is *-uṅkaḷ* and the plural imperative suffix is again the same *-uṇkaḷ*. The imperative suffix occurs after the stem. The structure of the verb when taking the imperative suffix is Vst - imp. The following rule accounts for the classification of imperative suffixes.

Rule 5

Imperative → { Inf. imp, Po.1.imp, Po.2.imp, Pl. imp }

e.g.	Col -	>	Col	'say'
	Col - um	>	Collum	'say'
	Col - uṅkal	>	Colluṅkaḷ	'say'
	Col - uṅkaḷ	>	Colluṅkaḷ	'say'

1. 1. 5 Desiderative The desiderative suffix is *-āṭṭum.* It has the variants *-kaṭṭum* and *-kkaṭṭum.* The suffix *-kkaṭṭum* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, that is, the stems whose optative forms end in *-kka,* the suffix *-kaṭṭum* occurs with the stems of (C)V̄ type and *-aṭṭum* occurs with the other stems.

e.g.	paṭi - kkaṭṭum	>	paṭikkaṭṭum	'let - - - read'
	pō - kaṭṭum	>	pōkaṭṭum	'let - - - go'
	col - aṭṭum	>	collaṭṭum	'let - - - say'

1. 1. 6 Optative : The optative suffix is *-ka* and its variant is *-kka.* The suffix *-kka* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7 and *-ka* occurs with the other stems.

e.g.	paṭi - kka	>	paṭikka	'read'
	pō - ka	>	pōka	'go'
	cel - ka	>	celka	'go'
	vāḻ - ka	>	vāḻka	'long live'

1. 1. 7 Potential : The potential suffix is *-alām* and its variants are *-kalām* and *-kkalām.* The variant *-kkalām* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, *-kalām* with the stem of (C) V̄ type and *-alām* with the other stems.

e.g.	paṭi - kkalām	>	paṭikkalām	'may read'
	pō - kalām	>	pōkalām	'may go'
	col - alām	>	collalām	'may say'

1. 1. 8 Prohibitive: The prohibittve or the negative imperative forms of the verbs are formed by adding the negative suffix *-āt* and the negative imperative suffix to the verb stems. The negative imperative can be classified as (a) informal, (b) polite,1 (c) polite 2 and (d) plural. The informal prohibitive suffix is *-ē*, the polite 1 prohibitive suffix is *-īr*, the polite 2 prohibitive suffix is *-īrkal* and the plural prohibitive suffix is again the same *īrkal.* It is already explained that *-āt* has other variants i.e. *-kāt* and *-kkāt.* (see 1. 1. 2).

e.g	paṭi - kkāt - ē	>	paṭikkātē	'don't read'
	paṭi - kkāt - īr	>	paṭikkātīr	'don't read'

paṭi - kkāt - īrkaḷ	>	paṭikkātīrkaḷ	'don't read'
paṭi - kkāt - īrkaḷ	>	paṭikkātīrkaḷ	'don't read'
pō - kāt - ē	>	pōkātē	'don't go'
pō - kāt - īr	>	pōkātīr	'don't go'
pō - kāt - īrkaḷ	>	pōkatīrkaḷ	'don't go'
pō - kāt - īrkaḷ	>	pōkātīrkaḷ	'don't go'
col - āt - ē	>	collātē	'don't say'
col - āt - īr	>	collātīr	'don't say'
col - āt-īrkaḷ	>	collātīrkaḷ	'don't say'
col - āt-īrkaḷ	>	collātīrkaḷ	'don't say'

Rule 6

Prohibitive → { inf. Prohib.
po.1 Prohib.
po.2 Prohib.
pl. Prohib. }

1. 2 Nonfinite forms

The nonfinite forms of the verbs might be broadly classified as adjectival participle and adverbial participle which the traditional grammarians call *peyareccam* and *viṉaiyeccam* respectively. The adjectival participle is otherwise called relative participle.

1. 2.1. Adjectival participle *:* The adjectival or relative participles are classified into four on the basis of the tense markers. They are past relative participle, present relative participle, future relative participle and negative relative participle. Since the phrase 'relative participle' is more commonly used to mean *peyareccam,* henceforth we prefer the same.

Past relative participle : The structure of the past relative participle is Vst - Past tense- *a.*[19]

e.g.	paṭi- tt- a	>	paṭitta	paṭi	'read'
	naṭa- nt- a	>	naṭanta	naṭa	'walk'
	cey - t- a	>	ceyta	cey	'do'
	pāṭu-iṉ - a	>	pāṭiṉa	pāṭu	'sing'

Present relative participle : The structure of the present relative participle is Vst - present tense - *a*.

e.g. paṭi - kkiṉṟu - a > paṭikkiṉṟa
nata - kkiṉṟu - a > naṭakkiṉṟa
cey - kiṉṟu - a > ceykiṉṟa

Future relative participle : Regarding the future relative participle, the future tense and the relative participialization are shown by the suffix - *um* whose variants are -*kum* and -*kum*. The vartant -*kkum* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, the variant -*ḳum* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and -*um* with the other stems.

e. g.	paṭi - kkum	>	paṭikkum	paṭi 'koad'
	pō - kum	>	pōkum	pō 'go'
	aḷ - um	>	āḷum	āḷ 'rule'

Negative relative participle : The structure of the negative relative participle is Vst - negative - *a*

e. g., paṭi - kkāt - a > paṭikkāta [20]
pō - kāt - a > pōkāta
āḷ - āt - a - > āḷāta

The following rule summarizes the adjectival participles.

Adj - PP ——→ { Past Rp, Present Rp, Future Rp, Neg Rp }

1. 2. 2. Adverbial Participle : The adverbial participles might be classified as follows:

(a) Infinitive
(b) Conjunctive
(c) Conditional
(d) Consecutive
(e) Simultaneous
(f) Negative

Infinitive: The infinitive suffix is - *a* and its variants are - *ka* and - *kka*. The variant - *kka* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, the variant - *ka* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and - *a* with the other stems.

e. g., paṭi - kka > paṭikka

pō - ka > pōka

āḷ - a > āḷa

Conjunctive: The conjunctive participle is otherwise called verbal participle. The conjunctive participializer is - *tu* and its variants are - *ttu, ntu* and - *i.* The variant - ttu occurs with the stems of the class 6, - *ṅtu* with the stems of the classes 2 and 7, - tu with the stems of the classes 1 and 5 and - i with the stems of the class 3. The change of - *pu* into -*ppu,* regarding the class 4, makes the conjunctive participle in that case. There are some irregular verbs such as *āy,* pōy, etc.

e. g., cey -tu > ceytu

paṭi -ttu > paṭittu

naṭa -ntu > naṭantu

pāṭu -i > pāṭi

paṭu -Conj. pp > paṭṭu

Conditional Participle : The conditional participle is formed by adding -āl to the conjunctive participle.[21] The variant of -āl is -ṉāl. The variant -ṉāl occurs after the conjunctive participializer -*i* (also *y*) and -āl with the rest.

e. g., ceytu āl > ceytāl

naṭantu -āl > naṭantāl

pāṭi -ṉāl > pāṭiṉāl

paṭṭu -āl > paṭṭāl

paṭu 'to occur to one's mind'

Consecutive : Consecutive participle is formed by adding -*atum* to the sequence of verb stems plus tense.

e. g., cey -t-atum > ceytatum

paṭi -tt-atum > paṭittatum

pāṭu -iṉ-atum > pāṭiṉṉatum
naṭa -nt-atum > naṭantatum

Simultaneous : The simultaneous participle is formed by adding *kaiyil* to the verb stem. The variant of *kaiyil* is *-kkaiyil*. The variant -kkaiyil occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7 and -kaiyil with the other stems.

e. g., paṭi -kkaiyil > paṭikkaiyil
pāṭu -kaiyil > pāṭukaiyil
kāṇ -kaiyil > kāṇkaiyil

Negative : The negative participle is formed by adding *-āmal* or *ātu* to the verb stem. The variants of *-āmal* are *-kāmal* and *kkāmal* while the variants of *ātu* are *kātu* and *kkātu*. The variants *kkāmal* and *kkātu* occur with the stems belonging to the 6th and 7th classes, the variants *kāmal* and *kātu* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and the rest occur with the other stems.[22]

e. g., paṭi -kkāmal > paṭikkāmal
paṭi -kkātu > paṭikkātu
pō -kāmal > pōkāmal
pō -kātu > pōkātu
pāṭu -āmal > pāṭāmal
pāṭu -ātu > pāṭātu

All the adverbial paticiples might be summarized as follows :

Rule 8

Adv. PP ———→ { Infiintive. PP
Conjunctive. PP
Conditional. PP
Consecutive. PP
Simulaneous. PP
Negative. PP }

1. 3. Nouns Derived From Verbs

Regarding the nouns derived from verbs, there are two main divisions of which one class of nouns can take adjectives whereas the other class cannot. For instance, *ōṭṭam* 'run',

pāṭṭu 'song', etc., which are derived from the verbs *ōṭu* and *pāṭu* respectively, can take an adjective whereas the nouns *ōṭutal* 'running', *pāṭutal* 'singing', etc. cannot take an adjective. Those nouns which have lost their verbal force are not our main concern in this section and therefore the other class of nouns alone are treated here.

1. 3. 1. **Ceytal type:** The nouns of *ceytal* type are formed by adding *-tal* to the stem. The variants of *-tal* are *-al* (which is a free variant of *-tal* except when added to the stems of (C)$\overline{V}$ type) and *-ttal* which occurs after the stems of 6th and 7th classes. The variant *-tal* occurs with the stems of the first five classes.[23]

e. g.,	cey - tal/al	> ceytal/ceyal	
	āḷ - tal/al	> āḷutal/āḷal	ruling
	añcu - tal/al	> añcutal/añcal	fearing
	naku - tal/al	> nakutal/nakal	smiling
	uṇ - tal/al	> uṇṇutal/uṇṇal	eating
	pō - tal	> pōtal	going
	kēḷ - ttal	> kēṭṭal	hearing
	naṭa - ttal	> naṭattal	walking

The sandhi rules permit us to have *aṭal* and *uṇṭal* as well instead of *āḷutal* and *uṇṇutal* respectively.

1. 3. 2. **Vst - tense - suffix type:** The nouns like *ceytatu, ceyvatu, ceyyatatu,* etc. come under this division.

Ceytatu type: The nouns of *ceytatu* type are formed by adding the past tense marker and *atu* to the stem. [24]

e. g.,	cey - t - atu	> ceytatu
	paṭi - tt - atu	> paṭittatu
	naṭa - nt - atu	> naṭantatu
	iru - nt - atu	> iruntatu
	pāṭu - iṉ - atu	> Pāṭiṉatu[25]
	ōṭu - iṉ - atu	> ōṭiṉatu

Ceykiṉratu type: The nouns of *ceykiṉratu* type are formed by adding the present tense suffix and *-atu* to the stem. [26]

e. g., cey -kinru - atu > ceykinratu
paṭi - kkinru - atu > paṭikkinratu
pāṭu - kinru - atu > pāṭukinratu

Ceyvatu type: These nouns are formed by adding the future tense suffix and *-atu* to the stem.

e. g., pō -v -atu > pōvatu
paṭi -pp -atu > paṭippatu
naṭa -pp -atu > naṭappatu

Ceyyātatu type: The nouns of ceyyātau type are formed by adding the negative suffix and *-atu* to the stem.[27]

e. g., pāṭu -āt -atu > pāṭātatu
pō- kāt -atu > pōkātatu
paṭi -kkāt -atu > paṭikkātatu
naṭa -kkāt -atu > naṭakkātatu

1. 3. 3. Relative Participle - mai

By adding - *mai* to the relative participles, we can form another kind of nouns. It must be noted here that the suffix *-mai* cannot be added to the future relative participle.

Ceytamai type: Past relative participle plus *-mai* forms the nouns of *ceytamai* type.

e. g., naṭanta -mai > naṭantamai
paṭitta -mai > paṭittamai
pāṭina -mai > pāṭinamai
pāṭiya -mai > pāṭiyamai

Ceykinramai type: Present relative participle plus *-mai* forms the nouns of *ceyiknramai* type.

e. g., pōkinra -mai > pōkinramai
paṭikkinra -mai > paṭikkinramai
naṭakkinra -mai > naṭakkinramai

Ceyyatamai type: Negative relative participle and *-mai* form the nouns of *ceyyātamai* type.[28]

e. g., pōkāta -mai > pōkātamai
pāṭāta -mai > pāṭātamai
collāta -mai > collātāmai

The formation of the verbal nouns discussed in 1. 3. 1, 1. 3. 2 and 1. 3. 3 can be summarized as follows;

Rule 9

VN ⟶ V_{st} {
-tal
Tense *-atu*
{ past / present / negative } *-a -mai*
}

1. 3. 4. Conjugated Nouns

The conjugated nouns are otherwise known as participial nouns. The structure of these nouns is V_{st} -tense - Suffix. The suffixes used here are - *avaṉ*, - *avaḷ*, - *avar*, - *avarkaḷ*, - *atu* and -*avai*. It might be noticed here that these suffixes and the remote demonstrative pronouns are formally alike.

e. g., paṭi -tt -avaṉ > paṭittavaṉ
paṭi -tt -avaḷ > paṭittavaḷ
paṭi -tt -avar > paṭittavar

V_{st} - Past tense - Suffix

As mentioned above the suffixes are -*avaṉ*, - *avaḷ*, - *avar*, - *avarkaḷ*, - *atu* and - *avai*.

e. g., paṭi -tt -avaṉ > paṭittavaṉ
paṭi -tt -avaḷ > paṭittavaḷ
paṭi -tt -avar > paṭittavar
paṭi -tt -avarkaḷ > paṭittavarkaḷ
paṭi -tt -atu > paṭittatu
paṭi -tt -avai > paṭittavai

pāṭu -iṉ -avaṉ > pāṭiṉavaṉ
pāṭu -iṉ -avaḷ > pāṭiṉavaḷ
pāṭu -iṉ -avar > pāṭiṉavar
pāṭu -iṉ -avarkaḷ > pāṭiṉavarkaḷ
pāṭu -iṉ -atu > pāṭiṉatu
pāṭu -iṉ -avai > pāṭiṉavai

In the case of *pāṭiṉavaṉ*, etc., the *ṉ* in *iṉ* is optionally dropped and then the glide *y* is introduced as a result of which we get *pāṭiyavaṉ* instead of *paṭiṉavaṉ*.[29]

Vst - Present tense - Suffix: Conjugated nouns involving present tense are more common in spoken Tamil whereas conjugated nouns involving future tense are more common in literary Tamil. Also there is some kind of overlapping between the present and future tense. Nouns of Vst - Present tense - Suffix type are not uncommon nor impossible in literary Tamil.

e. g.,	paṭi -kkiṉṟu -avaṉ	>	paṭikkiṉṟavaṉ
	paṭi -kkiṉṟu -avaḷ	>	paṭikkiṉṟavaḷ
	paṭi -kkiṉṟu -avar	>	paṭikkiṉṟavar
	paṭi -kkiṉṟu -avarkaḷ	>	paṭikkiṉṟavarkaḷ
	paṭi -kkiṉṟu -atu	>	paṭikkiṉṟatu
	paṭi -kkiṉṟu -avai	>	paṭikkiṉṟavai

Vst - Future tense - Suffix : When looking at the forms *paṭittavaṉ*, *paṭikkiṉṟavaṉ*, etc., one might be tempted to analyse the conjugated nouns as relative participle plus person-number -gender suffix. Regarding the conjugated nouns involving future tense it is not possible to analyse them as future relative participle plus person - number - gender suffix. This is the reason why we analysed conjugated nouns as Vst - tense suffix - Suffix.

e. g.,	paṭi -pp -avaṉ	>	paṭippavaṉ
	paṭi -pp -avaḷ	>	paṭippavaḷ
	paṭi -pp -avar	>	paṭippavar
	paṭi -pp -avarkaḷ	>	paṭippavarkaḷ
	paṭi -pp -atu	>	paṭippatu
	paṭi -pp -avai	>	paṭippavai

Vst - Nagative - Suffix : The negative suffix is - āt and its variants, as already stated, are - kāt and -kkāt.

e. g.,	paṭi -kkāt -avaṉ	>	paṭikkātavaṉ
	paṭi -kkāt -avaḷ	>	paṭikkātavaḷ
	paṭi -kkāt -avar	>	paṭikkātavar
	paṭi -kkāt -avarkaḷ	>	paṭikkātavarkaḷ
	paṭi -kkāt -atu	>	paṭikkātatu
	paṭi -kkāt -avai	>	paṭikkātavai

The formation of conjugated nouns might be summarized as follows.

Rule 10

$$\text{Conjugated Noun} \rightarrow \text{Vst} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Past} \\ \text{Present} \\ \text{Future} \\ \text{Negative} \end{array} \right\} - \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{avaṉ} \\ \text{avaḷ} \\ \text{avar} \\ \text{avarkaḷ} \\ \text{atu} \\ \text{avai} \end{array} \right\}$$

A verb when conjugated for tense, Png., etc., gives 105 forms.

Finite forms

Vst - tense - Png	52
Vst - imperative	4
Vst - *aṭṭum*	1
Vst - *ka*	1
Vst - *alām*	1
Vst - Prohibitive	4
	63

Nonfinite forms

Relative participle	4
Adverbial ,,	6
	10

Derived nouns

Verbal noun	8
Conjugated nouns	24
	32

$$63 + 10 + 32 = 105$$

The verb *cey* has the following forms. Examples in sentences are given along with them.

Vst - tense - Png. cey 'do'

ceptēṉ	nāṉ pārttēṉ	'I saw'
ceytōm	nām pārttōm	'We saw (incl.)'
ceytōm	nāṅkaḷ pārttōm	'We saw (excl.)'
ceytāy	nī pārttāy	'You saw'
ceytīr	nīr pārttīr	'You saw (hon)'
ceytīrkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ pārttīrkaḷ	'You saw (hon)'
ceytīrkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ pārttīrkaḷ	'You saw (pl.)'
ceytāṉ	avaṉ pārttāṉ	'he saw'
ceytāḷ	avaḷ pārttāḷ	'she saw'
ceytār	avar pārttār	'he/she saw (hon)'
ceytārkaḷ	avarkaḷ pārttārkaḷ	'they saw'
ceytatu	atu pārttatu	'it saw'
ceytaṉa	avai pārttaṉa	'they saw (nonhuman)'
ceykiṉṟēṉ	nāṉ pārkkiṉṟēṉ	'I see'
ceykiṉṟōm	nām pārkkiṉṟōm	'We see (incl.)'
ceykiṉṟōm	nāṅkaḷ pārkkiṉṟōm	'We see (excl.)'
ceykiṉṟāy	nī pārkkiṉṟāy	'You see'
ceykiṉṟīr	nīr pārkkiṉṟīr	'You see (hon.)'
ceykiṉṟīrkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ pārkkiṉṟīrkaḷ	'You see (hon.)'
ceykiṉṟīrkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ pārkkiṉṟirkaḷ	'You see (hon.)'
ceykinṟāṉ	avaṉ pārkkiṉṟāṉ	'he sees'
ceykiṉṟāḷ	avaḷ pārkkiṉṟāḷ	'she sees'
ceykiṉṟār	avar pārkkiṉṟār	'he/she sees (hon)'
ceykiṉṟārkaḷ	avarkaḷ pārkkiṉṟārkaḷ	'they see'
ceykiṉṟatu	atu pārkkiṉṟatu	'it sees'
ceykiṉṟaṉa	avai pārkkiṉṟaṉa	'they see'
ceyvēṉ	nāṉ pārppēṉ	'I will see'
ceyvōm	nām pārppōm	'we will see (incl.)'
ceyvōm	nāṅkaḷ pārppōm	'we will see (excl.)'
ceyvāy	nī pārppāy	'You will see'
ceyvīr	nīr pārppīr	'You will see (hon.)'

ceyvīrkaḷ	nīnkaḷ pārppīrkaḷ	'You will see (hon.)'
ceyvīrkaḷ	ninkaḷ pārppirkaḷ	'You will see (Pl.)'
ceyvāṉ	avaṉ pārppāṉ	'he will see'
ceyvāḷ	avaḷ pārppāḷ	'she will see'
ceyvār	avar pārppār	'he/she will see (hon.)'
ceyvārkaḷ	avarkaḷ pārppārkaḷ	'they will see'
ceyyum	atu pārkkum	'it will see'
ceyyum	avai pārkkum	'they will see'
ceyyēṉ	nāṉ pārēṉ	'I won't see'
ceyyōm	nām pārōm	'We won't see' (incl.)'
ceyyōm	nāṅkaḷ pārōm	'We won't see' (excl.)'
ceyyāy	nī pārāy	'You won't see'
ceyyīr	nīr pārīr	'You won't see (hon.)'
eeyyīrkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ pārīrkaḷ	'You won't see (hon.)'
ceyyīrkal	nīṅkaḷ pārīrkaḷ	'You won't see' (pl.)'
ceyyān	avaṉ pārāṉ	'he won't see'
ceyyāḷ	avaḷ pārāḷ	'she won't see'
ceyyār	avar pārār	'he/she won't see (hon.)'
ceyyārkaḷ	avarkaḷ pārārkaḷ	'they won't see'
ceyyātu	atu pārātu	'it won't see'
ceyyā	avai pārā	'they won't see'

Regarding the negative forms given above except *ceyyātu,* type the other forms are rather uncommon in Modern Tamil.

Imperative

cey	nī cey	'You do'
ceyyum	nīr ceyyum	'You do (hon.)'
ceyyuṅkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ ceyyuṅkaḷ	'You do (hon.)'
ceyyuṅkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ ceyyuṅkaḷ	'You do (pl.)'

Desiderative

ceyyaṭṭum	avaṉ varaṭṭum	'let him come'

Optative

ceyka	avarkaḷ vāḻka	'let them live long'

Potential

ceyyalām	nīṅkaḷ uḷḷe varalām	'You may come in'

Prohibitive

ceyyāṭē	nī pāṭātē	'don't sing'
ceyyātīr	nīr paṭātir	'don't sing (hon.)'
ceyyātīrkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ paṭātīrkaḷ	'don't sing (hon.)'
ceyyātīrkaḷ	nīṅkaḷ paṭātīrkaḷ	'don't sing (pl.)'

Relative Participle

ceyta	paṭitta paiyaṉ	'the boy who read'
ceykiṉṟa	paṭikkiṉṟa Paiyaṉ	'the boy who reads'
ceyyum	paṭikkum Paiyaṉ	'the boy who will read'
ceyyāta	paṭikkata Paiyaṉ	'the boy who did not read'

Adverbial Participle

ceyya : avaṉ uṅkaḷaip pārkka vantān
'he came to see you'
ceytu : avaṉ iṅku vantu eṉṉaip pārttāṉ
'he came here and saw me'
ceytāl / ceyyiṉ : nī kēṭṭāl avar koṭuppār
'he will give if you ask for it'
ceytatum : avaṉ vantatum aval pōyviṭṭāḷ
'she went as soon as he came'
ceykaiyil : avaṉ pāṭukaiyil avaḷ tūṅkiṉāḷ
'she slept while he sang'
ceyyāmal/ceyyātu : avaḷ cāppiṭāmal tūṅkiviṭṭāḷ
'she slept without eating'

Verbal Noun

ceytal : nīṅkaḷ nāḷai varutaḷ nallatu
'It is good for you to come tomorrow'
ceytatu : avar vantatu uṇmai
'it is true that he came'
ceykiṉṟatu : nīṅkaḷ eḷutukiṉṟatu cari
'what you write is correct'
ceyvatu : niṇkaḷ pāṭuvatu cari
'it is correct that you sing'
ceyyātatu : avaṉ varāṭatu cariyalla
'it is not correct that he did not come'
ceytamai : marantamaikku varuntukiṟēṉ
'I am sorry I forgot'

ceykinramai : avan̲ pāṭukin̲ramai nan̲ru
'it is good for him to sing'
ceyyātamai/ceyyāmai : maṭal eḻutatamaikku varuntukrēn̲
'I am sorry that I didn't write to you'

Conjugated Noun

ceytavan̲ : avantān̲ itaip paṭittavan̲
'it is he who read this'
ceytavaḷ : avaḷtān̲ itaip paṭittavaḷ
'it is she who read this'
ceytavar : avartān̲ itaip paṭittavar
'it is he / she (hon.) who read this'
ceytavarkaḷ : avarkaḷtan̲ itaip paṭittavarkaḷ
'it is they who read this'
ceytatu : atuṭān̲ uṅkaḷai iṭittatu
'it is that one which hit you'
ceytavai : avaitan̲ uṅkaḷai iṭiittavai
'it is they which hit you'

ceykin̲ṟavan̲ : ivan̲tan̲ itaip paṭikkin̲ṟavan̲
'it is he who reads this'
ceykin̲ṟavaḷ : ivaḷtan itaip paṭikkin̲ṟavaḷ
'it is she who reads this'
ceykin̲ṟavar : ivartān̲ itaip paṭikkin̲ṟavaṟ
'it is he / she who reads this'
ceykin̲n̲ṟavarkaḷ : ivarkaḷtan̲ itaip paṭikkiṟavarkaḷ
'it is they who read this'
ceykin̲ṟatu : itu nān̲ paṭikkin̲ṟatu
'it is this that I read'
ceykinṟavai : ivai nān̲ paṭikkin̲ṟavai
'it is these that I read'

ceypavan̲ : itaip paṭippavan̲ avan̲tan̲
'it is he who will read this'
ceypavaḷ : itaip paṭippavaḷ avaḷtān̲
'it is she who will read this'
ceypavar : itaip paṭippavar avartān̲
'it is he/she (hon.) who will read this'
ceypavarkaḷ : itaip paṭippavarkal avarkaḷtān̲
'it is they who will read this'

ceyvatu : itu nāṉ paṭippatu
'it is this that I usually read'
ceypavai : ivai nāṉ paṭippavai
'it is these that I usually read'

ceyyātavaṉ : itaip paṭikkātavaṉ avaṉtāṉ
'it is he who did not read this'
ceyyātavaḷ : itaip paṭikkātavaḷ avaḷtāṉ
'it is she who did not read this'
ceyyātavar : itaip paṭikkatavar avartāṉ
'it is he / she (hon.) who did not read this'
ceyyātavarkaḷ : itaip paṭikkatavarkaḷ avarkaḷtāṉ
'it is they who did nōt read this'
ceyyātatu : itutāṉ nāṉ paṭikkātatu
'it is this that I did not read'
ceyyātavai : ivaitāṉ nāṉ patikkātavai
'it is these that I did not read'

FOOTNOTES

1. The *taṉviṉai* cannot be equated with intransitive verb because there are transitive and intransitive verbs in *taṉviṉai*. Hence *piṟaviṉai* cannot be equated with transitive verb either.

e. g., uṇ (tr.)	ūṭṭu
kāṇ	kāṭṭu
uṇar	unarttu
pūṇ	pūṭṭu

2. The verbs which can take PV and those which cannot take PV are not phonologically predictable. Therefore the verb stems are divided into two classes on the basis of the occurrence of PV.

3. Though - Pu > - PPu and - NPu > -PPu are phonologically predictable the rest are not.

e. g., niḷ - PV	niṭṭu
mīḷ - PV	mīḷ

tēy - PV	tēy
pāy - PV	pāyccu

4. Vs_1. a, Vs_1. b Vs_1. c can be grouped together by introducing some special kind of sandhi rules. From the teaching point of view, I like to present the analysis in such a way that it is closer to the traditional writing system. Besides it should be mentioned here that the Vs_1.a, Vs_1. b and Vs_1. c when taking PV go to the stem class 3 and Vs_1 d when taking PV goes to the class 6.

5. It must be mentioned here that the *piravinai* formation is not consistent in a few cases. They need further explanation.

e. g., paṭu 'suffer' paṭuttu 'make - suffer', but uṭu 'wear' uṭuttu 'wear' aḻintāṉ & aḻittāṉ contrast but niṉaintāṉ & niṉaittāṉ are synonymous.

6. It is found quite useful to teach the optative forms along with the verb stems so that the students might be able to learn and predict the conjugated forms more easily. All the verb stems when taking causative suffix go to the stem class 6.

7. It is very rare to find three causative suffixes occurring together. Though it is acceptable to have two causative suffixes together, it must be mentioned that it is not very common in the actual usage.

8. Tamil lexicon gives tt, ṟṟ, ṇṭ, ṉṟ, ṭ & ṟ in addition to the five we mentioned. Since the regular sandhi rules can take care of them they are not listed here.

9. The suffix *-um* is dealt with in the following section when dealing with person - number - gender markers.

10. These stems may also take ā and āt and they are not very common in actual usage, e.g. naṭakkātu, naṭavātu.

11. The verbs *pō, ā, cā*, etc. take - *kā* and *kāt*. If they are treated as *pōku, āku, cāku*, etc. they take - ā and - *āt*.

12. In the middle and old Tamil, we do not find such restriction. Even in modern Tamil, one may find negative -ā being used in poetry as it was used in middle and old Tamil.

13. There are some irregular verbs which are not included in these seven classes and they are vā, tā, cā, nō, vē, kāṇ, uṇ, pōṭu, cāppiṭu, kūppiṭu, etc.

14. It is possible to reduce all the classes into one single class. Such analysis might be rather complicated and too technical for the Tamil learners. Those who take a special interest in such analysis may refer to the author's paper, Verb Conjugation in Tamil in *Studies in Tamil Linguistics*.

15. In order to avoid confusion *-ōm* referring to *nām* and *-ōm* refering to *nāṅkaḷ* are treated as two different items. The same argument holds good for *īrkaḷ* referring to *nīṅkaḷ* in singular and plural.

16. The Png markers, aṉ a variant of āṉ, aḷ a variant of āḷ and ar a variant of ār, might be found in middle and old Tamil and also in poems of modern Tamil. They are not listed here since they are not common in actual usage.

17. When conjugated for negative, except the nonhuman singular and plural, other forms are extremely rare in modern Tamil.

18. There is another sort of imperative suffix, *-avum* commonly used in letter writing. The other variants of the suffix are *-kavum* and - *kkavum*. The variant - *kkavum* occurs with the stem of the classes 6 and 7, the variant *-kavum* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and *avum* with the other stems.

19. Regarding Vst - *in̲* - *a*, the *n̲* in *in̲* may be optionally dropped. For instance *pāṭu* - *in̲*- *a* may give *paṭiyā* where *n̲* is dropped and the glide y is introduced. Though *pāṭin̲a* and *pāṭiya* are acceptable, the latter is more common and preferable.

20. In some dialects the negative variant *-āt* is used instead of *-kkāt*. For instance, those dialects use *paṭiyāta* instead of *paṭikkāta*. Among *paṭikkāta* and *patiyāta*, the former is more regular and more common and hence preferable. In poetic usage the final - *ta* may be dropped and thus *ōṭāta* and *ōṭā* are synonymous.

21. There is also another way of forming the Conditional participle, i.e., by adding - in̲ to the stem. Since it is not very common in modern written Tamil, it is not treated with āl.

e.g., cey - in̲ > ceyyin̲
pāṭu - in̲ > pāṭin̲
koṭu - in̲ > koṭuppin̲/koṭukkin̲
naṭa - in̲ > naṭappin̲/naṭakkin̲

The formation of koṭuppin̲/koṭukkin̲ and naṭappin̲/naṭakkin̲ needs some historical explanation.

22. In certain dialects - āmal/ - ātu is used instead of *kkāmal / kkātu*. For instance *paṭiyāmal / patiyātu* may be found instead of *paṭikkāmal / paṭikkātu*.

23. It might be mentioned here that there are certain forms (*cākal*, *koṭukkal* etc.) with the suffix - *kal* whose variant is - *kkal*. Since such formation is not quite common it is not considered here.

24. This *ceytatu* has no plural form and this is different from the *ceytatu* which will be found among the conjugated nouns.

25. Regarding Vst - *iṉ* - *atu*, the *ṉ* in *iṉ* may be dropped and the glide - y - may be introduced. Instead of *pāiṉatn* and *oṭiṉātu* we may get *pāṭiyatu* and *ōṭiyatu* which are more common in actual usage. In order to avoid confusion the form Vst - *iṉ* - *atu* is preferred and given here from the teaching point of view.

26. Though it is possible to have Vst - *kiṉṟu* - *atu*, it is less acceptable in modern written Tamil.

27. In certain dialects, - *āt* is used instead of - *kkāt*. For instance *paṭiyātatu*, *naṭavātatu* etc. may be found in those dialects.

28. As mentioned already in footnote 20 we can have negative relative participle wtihout the final - *ta* to which - *mai* can be added. Therefore we may get forms like *pōkāmai* (<*pōkā* - *mai*) *cellāmai* (<*cellā* - *mai*) etc. in litreature. Also we may get forms like *paṭiyāmai*, *naṭavāmai* etc. where - *ā* is found instead of - *kkā*.

29. The dropping of *ṉ* in *iṉ* was alreday mentioned in footnote 25.

The Complex Verb in Modern Tamil

2. Complex Verb

By Complex verb we mean (1) the verb with two or more roots and (2) the verb with aspectual and modal auxiliaries.

2. 1. Finite forms : Henceforth we deal with the complex forms of the verb including the compound stems.

2. 1. 1. The compound stem : A compound stem may be of the following structures.

1,	N+V	e.g.,	pōrāṭu	struggle
2.	VP + V		kaṇṭupiṭi	discover
3.	Vroot + V		kolluṉ	be killed
4.	Vk + V		uṇṭāku	develop
5.	Prt + V		mēṟkoḷ	adopt

N + V : In this structure the verb may be *koḷ, paṭu, cey, paṇṇu, paṭuttu, āku, ākku, āṭu*, etc.

e.g.,	kōpam - koḷ	>	kōpaṅkoḷ	get angry
	kōpam - paṭu	>	kōpappaṭu	get angry
	kēli - cey	>	kēlicey	mock
	kēli - paṇṇu	>	kēlipaṇṇu	mock
	cari - paṭuttu	>	carippaṭuttu	mend
	pulaṉ - āku	>	pulaṉāku	be perceptible
	cari - ākku	>	cariyākku	mend
	pōr - āṭu	>	pōrāṭu	struggle

The noun *kōpam* can select *koḷ* as well as *paṭu*. That is to say, *kopaṅkoḷ* and *kopappaṭu* are acceptable, but *kātarpaṭu* is not

acceptable while *kātal koḷ* is all right. We cannot predict which noun takes which auxiliary verb. This is true with the other compound stems too.

VP + V: This kind of compound stems are formed by verbal participle plus verb.

e. g.,	eḻuntiru	get up
	kaṇṭupiṭi	discover
	oṭṭukkoḷ	agree
	viṭṭukkoṭu	give in
	vēṇṭikkol	request

Vroot + V: A combination of certain verb roots and verbs forms this type of compound stems.

e. g.,	kolluṇ	be killed
	putaiyuṇ	be burried
	aṭipaṭu	be beaten
	utaipaṭu	be broken

Vk + V: The verb *uṇṭu* can be followed by *āku* or *ākku*. The verb uṇṭu itself is a finite verb which is called *kurippuvinai* in Tamil. This division contains only these two stems, i. e., *uṇṭāku* and *uṇṭākku*.

Prt + V: Certain particles plus certain verbs make this kind of compounds.

e. g.,	muṉṉēṟu	progress
	muṟpaṭu	come forward
	piṟpaṭu	lag behind
	mēmpaṭu	improve
	kīḻppaṭu	deteriorate
	kaṭaippaṭu	fall behind
	kaṭaippiṭi	observe

2. 1. 2. Aspectuals

The aspectuals are further classified according to the auxilliary verbs added to the main verb. When such auxiliaries are added to the main verb the main verb is in the verbal participial form. The aspectuals are named according to their predominant meanings.[1]

Vpp - Aux - Tns - Gp
Vantu - Viṭu - v - ār
Vantu - iru - nt - ār

avar vantu viṭuvār 'he will definitely co[illegible]'
avar vantiruntār 'he had come'

Progressive Vpp - koṇṭiru - Tns - Gp
paṭittu - koṇṭiru - nt - ār

avar paṭittuk koṇṭiruntār 'he was reading'

Perfective Vpp - iru - Tns - Gp
vantu - iru - nt - ār

avar vantiruntār 'he had come'

Definitive Vpp - viṭu - Tns - Gp
vantu - viṭu - v - ār

avar vantu viṭuvār 'he will definitely come'

Trial[2] Vpp - pār - Tns - Gp
eḻuti - pār - tt - ār

avar eḻutip pārttār 'he tried writing'

Demonstrational Vpp - kāṭṭu - Tns - Gp
eḻuti - kāṭṭu - v - ār

avar eḻutik kāṭṭuvār 'he will demonstrate how to write'

Reflexive[3] Vpp - koḷ - Tns - Gp
vāṅki - koḷ - v - ār

avar vāṅkik koḷvār 'he will buy for himself'

Resiprocal Vpp - kol - Tns - Gp
kātalittu - koḷ - nt - ārkaḷ

avarkaḷ kātalittuk koṇṭārkaḷ 'they loved each other'

Accidental Vpp - pō - Tns - Gp
uṭaintu - pō - iṉ - tu

atu uṭaintu poyiṟṟu 'it broke'

Contemptive Vpp - tolai - Tns - Gp
eluti - tolai - tt - ār
avar eluṭittolaittār 'he wrote with contempt',

Preservative[4] Vpp - vai - Tns - Gp
vānki - vai - tt - ār
avar vāṅki vaittār
'he bought and kept it' (for future utility)

Benefactive Vpp - aruḷ - Tns - Gp
colli - aruḷ - iṉ - ār
avar colliyaruliṉār 'he said'

In Tamil all the auxiliary verbs are found functioning as main verb as well. It may be noted here that the progressive marker *koṇṭiru* is a combination of the verbal participial form of *koḷ* 'receive' and *iru* 'be'. The meanings of the other auxiliaries may be easily referred to in any Tamil dictionary.

2. 1. 3. Modal

The modal auxiliaries are added to the infinitive form of the main verb. The modals are further classified according to the syntactic behaviour of the auxiliary verbs.[5]

Inceptive Vinf - pō - Tns - Gp
vara - pō - kiṟ - ār
avar varappōkiṟār 'he is going to come'

Attemptive Vinf - pār - Tns - Gp
ōta - pār - tt - ān
avaṉ ōtappārttān 'he tried to run'

Probabilitative Vinf - kūṭum
vara - kūṭum
iṉṟu maḻai varakkūṭum 'it may rain today'

Obligatory Vinf - vēṇṭum
pōka - vēṇṭum
nāṉ ippōtu pōka vēṇṭum 'I must go now'

Negative 1	Vinf - māṭṭ - Gp	
	vara - māṭṭ - ār	
	avar vara māttār	'he won't come'
Negative 2	Vinf - illai	
	vara - illai	
	avar varavillai	'he does / did not come'

Note that the auxiliaries *pār* and *māṭṭ* take Gp marker while *kūṭum, vēṇṭum* and *illai* do not. Except *māṭṭ* the other auxiliary verbs can function as main verb as well.[6]

2. 1. 4. Voice

Passive

In all the passive constructions the transitive verb is changed into its infinitive form and the auxiliary verb *-paṭu* 'suffer' is added to the infinitive.[7]

e. g., kol > kollappaṭu 'be killed'
paṭi > paṭikkappaṭu 'be read'

Causative

In the causative constructions the verb changes into its infinitive form and it takes *vai* 'put' *cey* 'do' or *paṇṇu* 'make'.[8]

e. g. ōṭu > ōṭavai 'cause to run'
ōṭaccey 'make run'
ōṭappaṇṇu ,,

2. 2. Nonfinite Forms

2. 2. 1. Adverbial Participles

Besides the simple adverbial participles there are a few compound adverbial participles.

Simultaneity

The structure of the compound participle of simultaneity is verbal participle + *koṇṭu.*

e. g., eḻuti - koṇṭu > eḻutikkoṇṭu

avar eḻutikkoṇṭu pēcinār 'he talked while writing'

Disjunctive

The structure of the disjunctive participle is verbal participle + *viṭṭu.*

e. g., eḻuti - viṭṭu >eḻutiviṭṭu

avar eḻutiviṭṭup paṭittār 'he read after finished writing'

Negative conditional

The structure of the negative conditional participle is verb stem - ā - viṭṭāl. The variants of *ā* are *kā* and *kkā* and they occur as described for negative in 1. 1. 2.

e. g., pāṭu - ā viṭṭāl > pāṭāviṭṭāl

nī pāṭāvitiāl nāṉum pāṭamāṭṭēn

'if you don't sing I won't sing either'

Adverbials of other kinds

Certain Compound adverbials are formed by adding the particles like *pōtu,* uṭan, etc., to the adjectival or relative participles. These adverbials may be temporal, manneral, limitative or distributive.

Temporal : The particles used in the temporal adverbials are *pōtu / Poḻutu, muṉ / muṉpu, piṉ / piṉpu / piṉṉāḷ / piraku* and *uṭaṉ / uṭaṉē.* Of them, *pōtu* can occur with past, present, future and negative relative participles, *muṉ* can occur with future relative participles and with negative ones as well and the rest can occur only with past relative participles.

RP + pōtu / poḻutu

vantapōtu / vantapoḻutu 'when sb. / sth. came'
kaṇṭāpōtu / kaṇṭapoḻutu 'when sb. / sth. saw'
varukiṟapōtu / varukiṟapoḻutu 'when sb. / sth. comes'
tarukiṟapōtu / tarukiṟapoḻutu 'when sb. / sth. gives'
varumpōtu / varumpoḻutu 'when sb. / sth. comes'
tarumpōtu / tarumpoḻutu 'when sb. / sth. gives'

varātapōtu / varātapoḻutu
'when sb. / sth. does not come'
tarātapōtu / tarātapoḻutu
'when sb. / sth does not give'

RP + muṉ / muṉpu

varum muṉ / varum muṉpu 'before sb. / sth comes'
pōkum muṉ / pōkum muṉpu 'before sb. / sth goes
varāmuṉ / varā muṉpu 'before sb. / sth. does not come'
pōkā muṉ / pōkā muṉpu 'before sb. / sth. does not go'

RP + piṉ / piṉpu / piṟaku

vantapiṉ / vantapiṉpu / vantapiṟaku 'after sb./ sth. came'
kaṇṭapiṉ / kaṇṭapiṉpu / kaṇṭapiṟaku 'after sb./ sth. saw'
pōṉapiṉ / pōṉapiṉpiṉpu / pōṉapiṟaku 'after sb./sth. went'

RP + uṭaṉ/ uṭaṉē

vantavuṭaṉ/ ventavuṭaṉē 'as soon as sb. / sth. came'
kaṇṭavutaṉ/ kaṇṭavuṭaṉē 'as soon as sb. / sth. saw'
pōṉavuṭaṉ / pōṉavuṭaṉē 'as soon as sb. / sth. went'

Manneral : The particles used in the manneral adverbials are *paṭi*, *āṟu* and *vaṇṇam*.[9]

RP + paṭi / āṟu / vaṇṇam

coṉṉapaṭi	'as sb.said'
coṉṉavāṟū	,,
coṉṉavaṇṇam	,,
colkiṟapaṭi	'as sb. says'
colkiṟavāṟu	,,
colkiṟavaṇṇam	,,

Limitative : The particles used in the limitative adverbials are *varai*, *varaiyil* and *maṭṭum*.

RP + *varai* / *varaiyil* / *maṭṭum*

varukiṟavarai	'until sb. / sth. comes'
varukiṟavaraiyil	,,
varukiṟamaṭṭum	,,
varumvarai	,,
varumvaraiyil	,,
varumaṭṭum	,,

Distributive : The distributive adverbials are not as common as the other three. The structure of this adverbial is RP + *tōṟum*/ *toṟum*. It must be noted that *tōṟum* occurs only with future relative participle.

e. g., varuntōṟum / varuntoṟum 'every time when sb. / sth. comes'
ayuntōṟum / ayuntoṟum 'whenever sb. studies'
kēṭkuntōṟum/ kēṭkuntoṟum 'whenever sb. hears'

2. 2. 2 Adjectival participles

There are certain compound adjectivals which are somewhat complicated and hence they are treated separately, These adjectivals are formed by adding *vēṇṭiya*, *kūṭiya*, *takka*, and *valla* to the infinitive forms of the verbs.

e. g., pārkkavēṇṭiya '(sth. sb.) one should see'
pāṭakkūṭiya '(sb.) who can sing'
pārkkattakka '(sth.) worth seeing'
pāṭavalla '(sb.) who can sing'

It is worth mentioning here that *kūtāta* and *takāta* are used to form the negative adjectivals; but semantically they are not the corresponding negative forms of the items given above.

e. g., pārkkakkūtāta '(sth,) one should not see'
pārkkattakāta '(sb. / sth.) one should not see'

2. 2. 3. The negative forms

The negative forms are very irregular and rather complicated. However, an attempt is made now to give a fairly clear account of the negative forms.

Desiderative: The structure of the negative desiderative vould be Vst - āmal - irukkaṭṭum. For the variants of *āmal* see negative in 1. 2. 2.

e. g., varamalirukkaṭṭum 'let sb. / sth. not come'
pōkāmalirukkaṭṭum 'let sb. / sth. not go'

Sometimes *pōkaṭṭum* is used instead of *iurukkaṭṭum*.

Optative

The structure of the negative optative is Vst - ātu - oḻika. For the variants of *ātu* see negative in 1. 2. 2.

e. g., varātoḻika 'may sb. / sth. not come'
pōkātoḻika 'may sb. / sth. not go'
pāṭātoḻika 'may sb. not sing'

Potential

The structure of the negative potential is Vst - āmal - irukkalām / pōkalām.

e. g., varāmalirukkalām 'sb. / sth. may not come'
varāmalpōkalām ,,
naṭakkāmalirukkalām 'sth. may not happen'
naṭakkāmalpōkalām ,,

Infinitive

The strutcure of the negative infinitive is Vst - āmal - irukka / pōka[10]

e. g., kēṭkāmal irukka 'not to ask'
kēṭkāmal pōka ,,

Conjunctive

Vst - āmal - iruntu / pōy

ceyyāmal iruntu 'having not done'
pōkāmal iruntu 'having not gone'
ceyyāmaṟ pōy 'having not done'

Conditional

We have already seen a negative conditional in 2.2.1. The negative conditional can also be formed as follows.[11]

Vst - āmal - iruntāl / pōṉāl

varāmal iruntāl 'if sb. / sth. did not come'
varāmaṟ pōṉal ,,
pāṭāmal iruntāl 'if sb. did not sing'
pāṭāmal pōṉāl ,,

Consecutive

Vst - āmal - poṉatum

ceyyāmaṟ pōṉatum	'as soon as sb. / sth. did not do'
pāṭāmaṟ pōṉatum	'as soon as sb. did not sing'

Simultaneous

Vst - āmal - irukkaiyil

ceyyāmal irukkaiyil	'when sb. has not done'
pokāmal irukkaiyil	'when sb. has not gone'
varāmal irukkaiyil	'when sb. / sth. has not come,

Verbal Noun

(a) Vst - āmal - iruttal

ceyyāmal iruttal	'act of not doing'

(b) Vst - āmal - iru - Tns - atu

ceyyāmal iruntatu	'the fact that sb. has not done'
ceyyāmal iruppatu	'the fact that sb. does not do'

(c) Vst - āmal { irunta / irukkiṉṟa } mai

ceyyamal iruntamai	'the fact that sb. did not do'
ceyyamal irukkiṉṟamai	'the fact that sb. does not do'

2.2.4. **Repetitive** [12]

The simple infinitive and the simple conjunctive forms can be repeated.

e. g., vara vara 'the more sb. / sth. comes'
vantu vantu 'having come repeatedly'

FOOTNOTES

1. There are certain semantic restrictions regarding the oecurrence of aspectual auxiliaries. For instance the auxiliaries *koḷ*, and *vai* do not occur with the verb *cā* 'die'.

2. Note the difference between Vpp+*pār* and Inf.+pār.

3. It is not clear whether *koḷ* is an aspectual marker or a voice marker.

4. The author wishes to thank miss M. Hume for suggesting the term *preservative*.

5. This is not an exhaustive study of aspectual and modal auxiliaries. There may be a few more auxiliaries to be treated here.

6. An historical study of *māṭṭ* may prove that it was a main verb: but it is not our main concern here. The verb stems of *kūṭum* and *vēṇṭum* are *kūṭu* and *vēṇṭu* respectively.

7. The structures of the active and passive sentences are as follows :

   NP_1 + NP_2 ai + Vb - tns - Gp. (active)

   e. g. Kaṇṇan rāmaṉ - ai kol - nt - āṉ
   'kannan' 'Raman' (acc) 'killed'

   NP_2 + NP_1 - āl + Vb - Inf. m. - paṭu - tns - Gp. (passive)

   e. g. rāmaṉ kaṇṇaṉ - āl kol - a - paṭu - āṉ.
   'Raman' 'by kannan' 'was killed'

8. The structures of noncausative and causative sentences are as follows :

   NP_1 + NP_2 - āl + Vb - tns - Gp. (non-causative)

e. g., avaṉ uṅkaḷ - āl ōṭu - iṉ - āṉ
'he' 'because of you' 'ran'

NP_2 + NP_1 - ai + Vb - Inf. m. — *vai* - tns - Gp. (causative)

e. g., nīṅkaḷ avaṉ - ai ōṭu - a - vai - tt - īrkaḷ
'you' 'him' 'made run'

9. When *paṭi*, *āṟu* and *vaṇṇam* are added to the future relative participle the meaning of the items are rather different. For instance *viṟumpiṉapaṭi* means 'as sb. desired' while *virumpumpaṭi* means 'in such a way that sb. would desire.'

10. When *ivu* occurs as a main verb the negative infinitive is formed by adding *pōka*. When *pō* occurs as a main verb the negative infinitive is formed by adding *iru*.

e. g., illāmalpōka 'not to be'
pōkāmal irukka 'not to go'

11. In middle and old Tamil, the structure of the negative conditional is found as follows:

Vst. - ātu - oḻiyiṉ

e. g., vārātoḻiyiṉ 'if sb. / sth. does not come'
kēḷātoḻiyiṉ 'if sb. does not hear'

12. Only the infinitive and conjunctive forms are found as repetitive items. It should be kept in mind that the idiomatic use of *vara vara* 'gradually, in the course of time' is different from the repetitive *vara vara.*